




Permanent Mission of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations
New York

 Permanent Mission
of Austria to the
United Nations in New York

22 March 2024

Excellencies, dear colleagues,

We have the honour of addressing you in our capacity as **Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations** on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council (IGN) during the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

Kindly find attached a copy of a letter dated 21 March 2024 received by the Co-Chairs from the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein requesting the circulation of a “FAQ” document on Liechtenstein’s intermediate model for enlargement of the Security Council.

The attached document will be **posted on the IGN website** which acts as a repository of the IGN process upon the request of the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Tareq Albanai
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
State of Kuwait to the United Nations

Alexander Marschik
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Austria to the United Nations

To: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations, New York



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

To:

H.E. Tareq Albanai
Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait
to the United Nations

H.E. Alexander Marschik
Permanent Representative of the State of Austria
to the United Nations

New York, 21 March 2024

Circulation of our “FAQ” on Liechtenstein’s “intermediate model” for Security Council reform

Excellencies,

Thank you for your dedicated and important work as Co-chairs of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other related matters to the Security Council (IGN) of the 78th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

I write to you to attach an “FAQ” on Liechtenstein’s intermediate model for enlargement of the Security Council. The FAQ covers some of the key questions that have been asked of our model during the presentation to the membership earlier this year, including inter alia on provisions related to the veto, the proposed long-term renewable seats, and working methods. We are grateful for the comments and feedback we have received on our model so far, and are undertaking a process of revision of our model, which we look forward to submitting to you at a later date.

I kindly request that the FAQ attached be included in the electronic repository created for the IGN for the consideration of its membership.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Christian Wenaweser
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations



PERMANENT MISSION
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

Liechtenstein's 'Intermediate Model' for Security Council Reform - FAQ

Why is Liechtenstein proposing its own model for enlargement?

As a small State, Liechtenstein has focused on improving the working methods of the Security Council – an area where very significant progress has been achieved in the last 15 years or so. We have in particular focused on questions concerning the veto, most recently by spearheading the “Veto Initiative” which the General Assembly adopted by consensus in April 2022. The enlargement model does not extend veto powers to any other States – which we believe would be deleterious to the functioning of the Council. LI is also of the view that the outdated composition of the Security Council, which is clearly biased in favour of the European region, is detrimental to the credibility and perception of the UN and must be addressed as soon as possible. The model put forward is thus driven by an effort to strengthen the institution and its standing among a wider public.

Does the intermediate model create a new category of seats? The Charter only provides for elected and permanent seats.

Yes, it creates a new, third category of ‘long-term renewable’ seats, which would allow States elected to those seats to serve on the Council for a longer time (8 or 10 years are proposed as possibilities), with the possibility of immediate re-election. The model thus creates the possibility of *de facto* permanent membership if those occupying a ‘long-term renewable’ seat are re-elected on a regular basis. The model therefore provides for permanent membership on the basis of accountability to the membership as a whole.

What is the purpose and scope of the review clause?

The review clause is intended to address on a mandatory basis the result of the implementation of the model. In putting forward the review clause, the model acknowledges that it does not address the position of the current five permanent members and that discussions thereon may be required in the future. The review would address all relevant aspects of Council reform, including: consideration of the categories of seats, the creation of additional seats of any category, existing permanent seats the question of the veto as well as the implementation of the measures to improve the working methods of the Council. The review is thus distinct from a general Charter review conference as foreseen in Article 109 of the Charter.

Does the intermediate model cover the area of working methods?

Yes. Under the model, the General Assembly will decide on a set of measures dealing with the working methods of the Council in a separate part of the resolution. The working methods elements addressed by the model will be those specifically resulting from the enlargement and the new composition of the Council, such as the majority required for decision-making in the

Council and ensuring that each member of the Council will be able to serve as its President at least once during their term.

Does the intermediate model create new vetoes? How does it address the existing veto?

The intermediate model does not create any new vetoes. Liechtenstein is opposed to the creation of new vetoes and in favor of restricting the use of the veto as it currently exists, such as the ACT Code of Conduct, and the French-Mexican initiative. Liechtenstein has also spearheaded General Assembly resolution 76/262 (the 'Veto Initiative'), which provides for accountability when the veto is cast and empowers the General Assembly on issues of peace and security, in accordance with the UN Charter. Specific measures regarding the use of the veto can be included in the model in the section on working methods discussed above.

How does the intermediate model protect the interests of small States?

Liechtenstein, as a small State, has put forward the intermediate model with the situation of small States in mind. The intermediate model expands the size of the Security Council, which could create more opportunities for small States to serve on the Council if those currently running for 2-year elected seats run for the newly created 'long-term renewable' seats. The model also contains a clause that candidates for one of the 'long-term renewable' seats - whether successful or unsuccessful - would not be eligible to serve as non-permanent members of the Council for the time period of the long-term renewable seat that they have run for. This will provide more opportunities for smaller States, who are less likely to run for the long-term renewable seat due to their comparatively limited capacity, to serve on the Council. The model will be revised in such a way that it provides for the specific representation of Small Island Developing States.

3/8/2024